

ADDRESS TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

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opposed to it, and to arrive in time on the rear of the left flank of the army which threatened Paris. The victories of Champ Aubert, of Montmirail, of Chateau-Thierry, of Vauchamps, of Mormons, of Montereau, of Craonne, of Hheims, of Arcis-sur-Aube, and of St. Dizier, the rising of the brave peasants of Lorraine and Champagne, of Alsace, Franche-Compte and Burgundy, and the position which I had taken in the rear of the hostile army, by cutting it off from its magazines, its parks of reserve, its convoys, and all its equipages, had placed it in a desperate situation. The French were never on the point of being more powerful, and the elite of the enemy's army was lost without resource ; it would have found a tomb in those vast plains which it had so mercilessly laid waste, when the treason of the Duke of Ragusa delivered up the Capital and disorganized the army. The unexpected misconduct of these two generals, who betrayed at once their country', their Prince, and their benefactor, changed the fate of the war / the situation of the enemy was such that at the close of the action which took place before Paris, he was without ammunition, in consequence of his separation from his parks of reserve. In these new and distressing circumstances my heart was torn, but my mind remained immovable ; I consulted only the interest of the country ; I banished myself to a rock in the middle of the sea ; my life was yours, and might still be useful to you. Frenchmen ! in my exile I heard your complaints and your wishes / you blamed my long slumber ; you reproached me with sacrificing the welfare of the country to my repose. I have traversed seas through perils of every kind ; I return among you to reclaim my rights, which, are yours"

The address to the army was considered as being still more masterly and eloquent, and it was certainly well suited to' the taste of French soldiers, who, as Bourrienne remarks, are wonderfully pleased with grandiloquence, metaphor, and hyperbole, though they do not always understand what they mean. Even a French author of some distinction praises this address as something sublime. "The proclamation to the army," says he, " is full of energy : it could not fail to make all military imaginations vibrate.

That prophetic phrase,